



CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM



March 16, 1998

Dear Interested Parties:

Accompanying this letter is a copy of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Programmatic EIS/EIR) for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This draft report is an important step in a unique cooperative effort by fifteen state and federal agencies with regulatory and management responsibilities in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin River Bay-Delta ecosystem to develop a long-term plan to restore ecosystem health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. The objective of this collaborative planning process is to identify comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity. **We encourage your comments on this document before the public comment period ends on June 1, 1998.**

This report is a joint product of the efforts of each of the CALFED participating agencies, and represents a major step in the process toward collectively achieving CALFED's objective. The report identifies twelve alternative options to achieve this objective and analyzes the environmental impacts of proceeding under each of those alternatives. Each of these alternatives includes core programs which address issues of ecosystem restoration, water use efficiency, water quality, Delta levee and channel integrity, water transfers, and watershed management coordination, as well as a range of storage and conveyance options. No decision has yet been made on a preferred alternative, and we encourage your participation in helping us shape this choice as part of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. Many issues that have been identified and evaluated in this document need further study and discussion, and your comments will contribute to our ability to make an informed and workable decision. In addition to the public hearings listed in the Draft EIS/EIR, CALFED will continue to conduct workshops and public meetings to facilitate public involvement as we progress toward the final plan.

The primary purpose of this Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is to inform decision-makers and the public about the impacts the various alternatives could have on both the human and the natural environment and to evaluate how well the alternatives meet the Program purposes. Because the Program is a long-term plan for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR is a program-level planning document, focusing on the interrelated long-term and cumulative consequences of various alternatives. Subsequent environmental review for the project specific actions involved in implementation of the Program will follow the approval of the Final Programmatic EIS/EIR.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Geological Survey
Western Area Power Administration

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